

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: Daytime temperatures across the State cooled somewhat this past week, although conditions remained dry in most areas. High temperatures generally ranged in the eighties, while low temperatures ranged in the upper thirties and forties. Grants Pass and Rome recorded weekly high temperatures in the lower nineties. Malheur and Harney counties reported some light, scattered showers, and Union County reported some isolated thunderstorms, which brought some much-needed drought relief. Soil moisture in September ranged from nearly one inch to three inches below normal, according to the Climate Prediction Center of the National Weather Service.

Field Crops: Fall fieldwork continued across the State but more rain is needed. Third cutting of alfalfa was being harvested in Harney County. In Malheur County, the fourth cutting of alfalfa continued. Silage corn harvest was winding down, corn for grain was being tested for moisture before harvest begins, and sugarbeet harvest was starting. Sugarbeet harvest was also underway in Union County. Fall seeding was underway in Wallowa County. In the Willamette Valley, fall grain seeding and planting of grass and clover for seed was ongoing. In Jackson County, grass and alfalfa were being cut for hay and fall grain seeding had begun.

Vegetables: In eastern areas of the State, onion harvest was well underway. Potato harvest continued in Malheur and Union counties. Willamette Valley growers were busy harvesting pumpkins and gearing up for the annual hunt for the perfect pumpkin. Many fall vegetables were still available at local markets and roadside stands. Marion County still had some sweet corn to harvest. In Josephine and Jackson counties, vegetable gardens were winding down but still had plenty of good vegetables, including lots of pumpkins, at farmers markets and roadside stands.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries were busy with fall sales and stock upkeep. Fall shipments of balled, burlaped and potted materials to out-of-state markets underway. Greenhouses were getting out fall flower starts and preparing for holiday plants. Commercial Eastern lily bulb harvest and shipping was underway.

Fruit and Nuts: Wine grape harvest continued throughout the Willamette Valley and in southern Oregon. Hazelnut harvest was well underway. Winter pear harvest was in full swing in the upper Hood River Valley area. Only late season apples remained to be picked in the lower Hood River Valley and in Jackson County. Cranberry harvest began on the southern coast where the size and color of the berries appeared to be mostly excellent.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pasture regrowth remains minimal as dry weather conditions prevailed again last week. As of October 5, 49 percent of range and pasture land was reported to be in very poor or poor condition across the State. Ranchers hopeful that forecasted rain will provide some relief. Calves are being weaned. Supplemental feed continued. In eastern Oregon, cows were being gathered for fall pastures.

Crop Progress Week Ending 10/5/03

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Winter wheat planted (%)	46	26	21	25
Winter wheat emerged (%)	16	8	4	9
Days suitable for fieldwork	7.0	7.0	—	—

Soil Moisture Week Ending 10/5/03

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	27	62	11	—
Subsoil (%)	44	40	16	—

Crop Condition Week Ending 10/5/03

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	13	36	45	6	—

WESTERN OREGON

CLACKAMAS: Fall grain seeding ongoing. Most field preparation completed. Evergreen blackberry picking completed. Still some pruning and training of other caneberries. Hazelnut harvest underway. Grapes for wine are being harvested, taking advantage of the current dry conditions. Fall shipments of balled and burlapped and potted material to many out-of-state markets is getting underway at a rapid pace. Many fall vegetables still available at local markets and roadside stands. Pumpkin patch operators are gearing up for the annual hunt for the perfect pumpkin. Livestock are still in mostly good condition.

COOS\CURRY: Dry. Some cloudiness with afternoon clearing. Fog drip in places near the coast. Cranberry harvest began, and several handlers were busy. Color appears to be mostly excellent. Size is good to excellent. Commercial Easter lily bulb harvest was underway, as well as shipping.

JACKSON: Still some grass and alfalfa hay being cut and baled. Although the ground is very dry, we still had some fall grains planted. Nighttime dew is some help, but we need some fall rain to get plantings off to a good start. Still some field preparations being done for planting of fall grains. Apple and pear harvest is continuing, but mostly done. The pear harvest appears to be quite good, with packing sheds working hard to keep up with the harvest. Wine grape harvest is still being done as sugar levels reach the picking stage. Vegetables being harvested include peppers, mellons, squash, corn and tomatoes. Still lots of good vegetables at farmers markets and roadside stands. Lots of pumpkins also available. Greenhouses getting out fall flower starts and preparing for holiday plants. Nurseries busy with fall sales and stock upkeep. Ranchers are busy with fall weaning, branding, marking, and getting fall sales stock to market. Pastures really showing stress from little moisture. Irrigation for most districts is about to end, with some already down for the year. Temperatures were still a bit warm; days are low to mid eighties and nights near fifty. Continued warm, dry weather helping cure fourth cutting of alfalfa. Some fields being readied for seeding of wheat. Pear pressures holding and harvest continues. Post-harvest cleanup sprays to begin soon.

JOSEPHINE: Gorgeous weather. Warm days with cool nights; nice fall weather. Gardens are winding down, getting those fall jobs done now. We are looking for rain. Very dry unless irrigated.

LANE: Growers are planting grass and clover for seed now. Most vegetable and sugarbeet seed crops are emerged and off to a good start. No newly planted grass is up; perennials as well as annuals waiting for rain. Perennials may have sustained drought damage; time will tell.

MULTNOMAH: Pumpkins are in full harvest. Lots of bare ground out there; needing rain.

MARION: Still have a little sweet corn to harvest.

WASHINGTON: Irrigation water still holding up well. Sweet corn harvest is complete. Pumpkins are coming off of fields. Fourth cutting alfalfa finished. Cattle look good and are still on supplemental feed. Apples are being picked and are abundant. Wine grape harvest is in full swing with excellent quality.

EASTERN OREGON

HARNEY: Third cutting alfalfa being harvested. Scattered showers by the end of the week. Calves weaned.

HOOD RIVER: Winter pear harvest was in full swing in upper Hood River Valley area. In the lower Hood River Valley, only late season apples remained to be picked.

LAKE: Cows are being gathered for fall pastures.

MALHEUR: Weather remains hot and dry with temperatures about 15 degrees above normal. Potato and onion harvest past the peak, but still several fields to go. Yields are down. Some fourth cutting alfalfa down. Early sugarbeet harvest started with indications of good yields. Some very light showers over the weekend in the valley. Weather has stayed warm enough that another cutting of alfalfa is being taken. Silage corn harvest is almost done. Corn grain fields are being tested for moisture before harvest begins. Onion harvest is well underway. Fall field work is keeping everyone busy. Ranchers are beginning to wean calves and are moving cattle to feedlots or winter quarters.

UNION: Potato harvest continues. Sugarbeet harvest underway. Winter wheat planting continues. Very pleasant summer-like weather was the norm this week, with above average temperatures and clear skies. The week even ended with precipitation from isolated thunderstorms that brought some drought relief to a few areas. Most farmers are looking forward to a promised break in the weather next week and the rains that are supposed to be on their way. Roundup of range cattle is underway as ranchers start to bring livestock closer to home in anticipation of cooler temperatures.

WASCO: Wine grape harvest began the week of September 22. The crop is of average size. We have had cool nights, which help with sugar and flavor development. Fruit quality overall is very high. Temperatures above normal all week long. Rain is needed to improve soil conditions for fall seeded grain. Wheat planting continued all week, while many farmers had deer hunting on their mind for weekend activity. Field cultivation and fertilization was also active. Fruit picking continued in many orchards around The Dalles. Pasture regrowth is non-existent. However, most cattle herds are doing well as we head into the fall season.

WALLOWA: No change in weather from previous week, other than somewhat cooler temperatures. It is still very dry, but fall seeding is underway in the hopes that moisture will soon be coming.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 5, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	50	70	58	3	56	18	0.05	-0.87	3	1.94	-1.64	54	13
Crescent City	47	66	54	-4	32	-18	0.02	-0.59	2	0.36	-1.84	16	9
Florence	46	74	57	-1	52	0	0.02	-0.82	1	1.99	-1.11	64	10
North Bend	48	68	58	2	59	11	0.00	-0.59	0	1.33	-0.90	60	8
Tillamook	50	69	59	4	61	24	0.00	-1.14	0	3.01	-1.57	66	10
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	45	79	62	5	85	36	0.00	-0.44	0	1.05	-0.78	57	6
Eugene	46	78	60	3	74	18	0.01	-0.42	1	0.82	-1.16	41	7
Hillsboro	49	76	61	6	79	35	0.00	-0.42	0	0.87	-0.94	48	3
McMinnville	46	77	61	4	76	27	0.01	-0.48	1	0.83	-1.16	42	7
Portland	52	73	62	4	87	29	0.00	-0.42	0	0.85	-1.20	41	6
Salem	48	77	61	5	76	29	0.00	-0.44	0	0.82	-1.05	44	5
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	46	92	65	5	106	35	0.00	-0.31	0	0.93	-0.20	82	4
Medford	45	84	65	6	109	40	0.00	-0.21	0	0.86	-0.15	85	2
Roseburg	49	80	64	5	100	34	0.00	-0.30	0	0.95	-0.41	70	3
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	44	80	61	9	82	57	0.00	-0.14	0	0.50	-0.33	60	3
Heppner	45	85	64	8	97	55	0.01	-0.18	1	0.47	-0.48	49	4
Hermiston	42	83	63	6	89	40	0.01	-0.06	1	0.73	0.24	149	2
John Day	42	87	65	12	109	73	0.02	-0.12	1	0.69	-0.25	73	6
Moro	46	84	64	10	96	64	0.00	-0.12	0	0.25	-0.39	39	3
Pendleton	47	83	64	8	102	52	0.00	-0.14	0	0.63	-0.06	91	2
The Dalles	48	85	66	12	117	82	0.00	-0.12	0	0.07	-0.58	11	2
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	38	81	58	8	62	39	0.00	-0.07	0	0.45	-0.07	87	3
Burns	32	85	62	13	87	70	0.00	-0.14	0	0.60	-0.06	91	5
Klamath Falls	33	78	59	5	62	27	0.00	-0.14	0	0.62	-0.03	95	3
Lakeview	30	81	58	6	57	28	0.00	-0.21	0	0.63	-0.15	81	2
Redmond	35	82	60	9	72	44	0.01	-0.06	1	0.57	0.11	124	6
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	34	83	60	9	69	45	0.00	-0.14	0	0.38	-0.46	45	4
Joseph	42	82	62	15	84	72	0.00	-0.35	0	0.61	-1.00	38	7
La Grande	37	86	61	8	81	45	0.00	-0.23	0	0.35	-0.75	32	5
Union	37	87	62	11	87	59	0.00	-0.21	0	0.90	-0.29	76	8
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	45	86	67	11	119	72	0.00	-0.09	0	0.14	-0.46	23	3
Rome	42	90	66	13	115	79	0.00	-0.12	0	0.38	-0.30	56	3

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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